

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

**Friday, March 23, 2012
Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library Downstairs
3:30 PM**

Commission Members Present: Laura Grunfeld Interim Chair
Dave Wells [with the assistance of Nan Wells]
(clerk)
Claudia Martin
Gail Mullen
Don Perry

Interim Chair Grunfeld called the C.O.D. meeting open at 3:30 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for Friday February 24, 2012 were moved to be approved by Martin, seconded by Grunfeld, and unanimously approved as written.

GRUNFELD UPDATED C.O.D. ON VARIOUS ISSUES:

- 1.) Town Notice Board and C.O.D. flyers' postings
- 2.) Town News E-Mail Notices which would let Sheffield residents know that they could ask for assistive technology assistance for Town events with a two week ahead of time request.
- 3.) Reported that she spoke with Kathy Orlando about the recommendations that the C.O.D. had endorsed regarding the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Kathy informed her that the plan is not yet turned in but that progress continues.
- 4.) The C.O.D. discussed concerns raised by the Select Board that the C.O.D. not reach out to the Mass. D.O.T. without going through the Town Administrator's office first. The Commission composed an E-Mail in response to their concerns, assuring them that all past contact with the D.O.T. has been made with the knowledge of the Town Administrator and that it would continue to be this way.

CONTINUED BRAINSTORMING FOR A COLLABORATIVE FAIR NEXT SPRING - 2013: Tentative title: "Summer Options for Children & Youths"

- 1.) Grunfeld asked Martin and Wells to submit 4 other title options at our meeting in April.
- 2.) Grunfeld will share idea with LaBombard, and with her OK, meet with school personnel to see if they would like to collaborate with the C.O.D. on this project ... tentative date for Grunfeld to meet with school personnel sometime around the 1st of April.
- 3.) If the school wants to come aboard, Grunfeld will see what 2013 date(s) might be feasible for the school.

THE C.O.D. WILL LOOK INTO WHAT PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES THE TOWN OFFERS KIDS/YOUTHS DURING THE SUMMER:

- 1.) Sheffield Bushnell–Sage Library programs ... Martin will meet with Nancy Hahn, of the Library, for a possible collaborative article that could be included in the *Sheffield Times*
- 2.) Cops'n Kids
- 3.) Fishing Derby (Canaan, CT) is it open to Sheffield youth?
- 4.) Check to see what programs/activities are inclusive

MORE DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW TO ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS TO THE C.O.D. COMMISSION: "Making Connections" Considered collaborating with the Aktion Club, Kiwanis & Key Club in a social event ie a pot luck picnic this summer at the Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library outside backyard and if inclement weather, downstairs' meeting room. Grunfeld will share this idea with LaBombard and Hahn for their feedback regarding a collaboration summer picnic social.

COMMISSION NEEDS A "FRIEND OF THE C.O.D.": Perry brought up the discussion surrounding how much more the Sheffield Commission on Disabilities could accomplish if it had a "Friends of the C.O.D." Discussion ensued.

MARTIN UPDATED C.O.D. REGARDING THE NADF/ASPHALT SITUATION: Discussion of health concerns caused by the plant were shared, by Martin, for information only.

SPEAKER SERIES EVENT FOR OCTOBER IN THE PLANNING STAGES: Consider Berkshire County ARC, Amy Robandet, as a possibility, ... "Services for South County."

REVIEWED OUR TOWN WEBSITE LINK: Grunfeld will speak to LaBombard/Goewey regarding updating information on the C.O.D. Town Website.

SHEFFIELD TIMES: 3 months C.O.D. article (will cover the months of May, June, and July) will be submitted by Martin.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE: Friday, April 20, 2012 at 3:30 PM at the Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library, downstairs meeting room.

AGENDA:

1. Summer 2012 collaborative picnic
2. October Speaker Series' Program
3. *Sheffield Times* C.O.D. article
4. Spring of 2013 collaborative event
5. Recruiting COD members and visitors
6. Reports
7. Other business as necessary

Martin moved to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Wells, and unanimously so approved to adjourn the meeting.

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:20 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk